

WSDOT Contractors Hit by Scam

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The Office of Accountability and Financial Services has received reports of attempts to fraudulently obtain funds from WSDOT contractors. These attempts are part of a nationwide fraud operation affecting USDOT and WSDOT contractors. The most recent attempt nearly resulted in a loss of \$9,000.00 and was only stopped by an alert bank employee.

Any questions received from WSDOT contractors who have been asked for payment information should be directed to the TRAINS help desk at 360-705-7514. The help desk can verify the legitimacy of the request and create a report if it is fraudulent.

This financial fraud works like this:

- Contractors and prospective contractors are contacted via a fax on what appears to be official USDOT or FHWA letterhead.
- The fax asks them to immediately update their financial records or become ineligible to do business. The material to be returned asks for signatures and bank routing information.
- If the business provides this information, a fraudulent wire transfer request is prepared on the contractor's letterhead and submitted through their bank.

The Accountability and Financial Services Office was contacted by a business this week who had been contacted via fax and submitted their financial information. A legitimate-appearing wire transfer request for nearly \$9,000.00 was received and processed by their bank. Luckily, the company's bank is small and questioned the Russian bank account that was the final destination. The company did further research and received information from the USDOT that this was a scam that is going on around the country.

For more information:

- [US Department of Transportation warning notice.](#)
- [TRAINS Express has more details and example of the FAX.](#)